

In reply address not the signer of letter, but the Chief of Chaplains, War Department, Washington, D. C.

Refer to No. SPCHP 201. Higuchi, Hiro (12-6-42)

WAR DEPARTMENT  
SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS  
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1942

Box 49  
Folder 5  
Item 47  
Page 16

*Handwritten:* ✓ Samuel W. King  
Higuchi, Hiro

Honorable John J. McCloy  
Assistant Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCloy:

I have your memorandum of December 6, 1942 with inclosed copy of letter from the Honorable Samuel W. King.

We have communicated directly with him acknowledging the tender of service of Rev. Hiro Higuchi of the Territory of Hawaii. A copy of our letter to the honorable Mr. King is inclosed. In the event that you desire to communicate directly with Mr. King we are returning his letter to you.

Your continued assistance to the Chaplain Corps is of great value, and I want you to know that I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,



WM. R. ARNOLD  
Chief of Chaplains

Incls.

*Handwritten:* ✓ King, Samuel W.  
✓ Higuchi, Hiro  
✓ Arnold, Wm. R.

*Handwritten:* 12-11-42



(COPY)

SPCRP 201. Higuchi, Hiro (12-1-42)  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS  
WASHINGTON

Box 49  
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December 11, 1942

Honorable Samuel W. King  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. King:

Your letter of December 3, 1942, addressed to the Honorable John J. McCloy, in behalf of Rev. Hiro Higuchi has been referred to this office. His application for appointment as Chaplain in the Army of the United States was just recently forwarded to this office. There were several factors which precluded favorable consideration. He did not have the necessary ecclesiastical indorsement of the General Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains which is a prime requisite leading to appointment in the military chaplaincy.

In view of the fact that the battalion which is comprised mainly of Japanese who have been naturalized has previously been assigned a chaplain who speaks the Japanese language fluently, it is doubtful whether an appropriate assignment could be found for Rev. Mr. Higuchi. Until such time that there should be an appropriate assignment open wherein your constituent's services could be utilized to full advantage, we regret that favorable consideration cannot be given to his desire to serve the military forces during the present emergency. Should this opportunity present itself, rest assured we shall be glad to give him every consideration possible.

Your interest in the military chaplaincy, as well as in the case of Rev. Mr. Higuchi, is gratefully acknowledged.

Sincerely yours,

WM. R. ARNOLD  
Chief of Chaplains

SAMUEL WILDER KING  
DELEGATE FROM HAWAII

Box 49  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

December 3, 1942

Honorable John J. McCloy  
Assistant Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCloy:

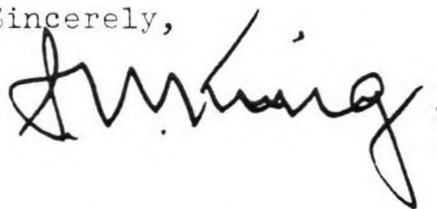
I have been informed that the Reverend Hiro Higuchi has applied for the position of Chaplain, Army of the United States, for assignment to duty with a battalion of troops now stationed at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, most of whom are citizens of the United States of Japanese ancestry.

Friends of the Reverend Higuchi have asked me to support his application and have informed me that he is a member of a family which has lived in Hilo, Hawaii for many years. Reverend Higuchi's father was also a Christian minister and was one of the first Japanese to urge the native born of his race to expatriate themselves from any onus of dual citizenship. The elder Higuchi sent all of his five children to Oberlin College in order that they might obtain a Christian and American education.

There is every reason to believe that the applicant for a commission as Chaplain in the Army is a loyal citizen and a devout Christian. It would seem appropriate to assign a man of his background to the battalion at Camp McCoy and I therefore recommend that the Reverend Hiro Higuchi's application be favorably considered subject to his possessing the proper qualifications.

With highest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,



enc: Hr. 12/13/42 Comr S.W. King to JJA-LC -